

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 06251 221346Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 L-03 INR-07
NSC-05 CIAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 EB-08 AID-05
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R 221305Z AUG 77
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INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 6251

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR, CY
SUBJECT: TURKISH PRIME MINISTER CONTINUES TO HOLD OUT OLIVE BRANCH
TO GREECE

REF: ANKARA 6184 (DTG 181042Z AUG 77)

1. AUGUST 20 TURKISH PRESS WIDELY PUBLISHED WRITTEN RESPONSES BY PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL TO NEWSMEN'S QUESTIONS (DEMIREL IS CURRENTLY REFUSING TO ANSWER PRESS QUESTIONS "ON HIS FEET"), WITH THE US ARMS EMBARGO, TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS, AND CYPRUS AMONG THE TOPICS COVERED. AS IN HIS REMARKS TO NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT SULZBERGER (PRINTED AUGUST 14 IN NYT), DEMIREL CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE HIS DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF ITS DISPUTES WITH GREECE.

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2. US EMBARGO. "ONE CANNOT SAY THAT THE AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO HAS NOT AFFECTED THE FIRING CAPACITY OF THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES," DEMIREL SAID, "HOWEVER, EVERY EFFORT IS BEING EXERTED FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THIS SHORTCOMING." WHILE STATING THAT TURKEY WAS DEVELOPING ITS DEFENSE INDUSTRIES AND REMAINS ABLE TO DEFEND ITS RIGHTS, DEMIREL EMPHASIZED THAT "WE ARE PAYING ATTENTION TO SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY WITH OUR

NEIGHBORS, THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS."

3. RELATIONS WITH GREECE. DEMIREL SAID, "WE ATTACH SPECIAL IMPORTANCE AND VALUE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH OUR NEIGHBOUR GREECE. WE WISH TO RAISE THESE RELATIONS TO A LEVEL IN KEEPING WITH THE LONG-TERM AND LASTING INTERESTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. WE SINCERELY WISH TO SOLVE OUR EXISTING PROBLEM THROUGH PEACEFUL WAYS IN GOODWILL AND WITH A CONSTRUCTIVE MENTALITY. HOWEVER, LET ME EMPHASIZE THE POINT THAT WE ARE CATEGORICALLY RESOLVED TO DEFEND OUR EXISTING NATIONAL RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN SEA. WE BELIEVE THAT IN THE EVENT OF OUR RIGHTS IN THIS SEA BEING RESPECTED, DISPUTES WILL DISAPPEAR AND IT WILL BE A SEA OF FRIENDSHIP AND PEACE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS IS A REQUIREMENT OF THE LAUSANNE BALANCE AND OF AGREEMENTS."

4. CYPRUS. "WE ARE CAREFULLY KEEPING OPEN THE PATH OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ALL THE OTHER PROBLEMS (WITH GREECE), ESPECIALLY THE CYPRUS PROBLEM," DEMIREL SAID. "AND WE MAINTAIN OUR BELIEF THAT, IN THE EVENT WE SEE UNDERSTANDING IN THE TALKS, POSITIVE RESULTS CAN BE OBTAINED."

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Message Attributes

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